

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01851 251240Z
ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 MMO-04 A-01 PER-05 /026 W
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P 242221Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1330

UNCLAS CARACAS 1851

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, APER, ABUD
SUBJECT: USE OF TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES IN CONSULAR
FUNCTIONS

REFERENCE: STATE 036883; CARACAS 1146

1. EMBASSY CARACAS HAS THREE HIGH SEASONS FOR THE
ISSUANCE OF NIV'S -- THREE WEEKS BEFORE EASTER; JUNE,
JULY, AND AUGUST; AND DECEMBER AND EARLY JANUARY.
FOR THE COMING EASTER SEASON, THE EMBASSY WILL REQUIRE
ONE PIT AS LOCAL EMPLOYEE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL ON FEB.
17 FOR MAJOR SURGERY AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE BACK AT
WORK BEFORE EASTER. LAST EASTER THE EMBASSY HANDLED
9,452 NIV CASES. WE ESTIMATE THE FIGURE WILL BE OVER
13,000 THIS YEAR.

2. IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH THE HEAVY WORKLOAD DURING THE
THREE SUMMER MONTHS (49,836 CASES IN SUMMER OF 1977;
OVER 70,000 CASES ESIMATED IN SUMMER OF 1978), THE
EMBASSY PLANS TO UTILIZE FOUR PITS. PRESENTLY, THE
NIV UNIT RECEIVES APPLICATIONS FROM 8 TO 12. THE
AFTERNOON IS DEVOTED TO PROCESSING CASES FROM TRAVEL
AGENCIES AND INTERVIEWS OF UNUSUAL CASES. IT IS THE
EMBASSY'S PLAN TO DOUBLE THESE PUBLIC HOURS FOR THE
SUMMER REMAINING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 8 TO 4.
THE UNIT WOULD BE MANNED ON A MODIFIED SHIFT BASIS WITH
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REGULAR EMPLOYEES AND PITS INTERSPERSED. TWO OFFICERS
AND FIVE EMPLOYEES WILL BEGIN WORK AT 8. TWO OTHER
OFFICERS AND FIVE EMPLOYEES WILL REPORT AT 10. LUNCH
HOURS WILL BE STAGGERED, ALLOWING THE UNIT TO OPERATE
NON-STOP. THE DOORS WOULD BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AT
4. THE FIRST SHIFT WOULD LEAVE AT 5 AND THE SECOND
SHIFT WOULD PROCESS THE AGENCY CASES UNTIL 7. IT IS

BELIEVED THAT THIS SYSTEM WILL ALLOW THE HANDLING OF THE INCREASED WORKLOAD MORE EFFICIENTLY AND MPROMPTLY. IT IS ALSO BELIEVED THAT THESE LONGER HOURS WILL HELP ELIMIATE THE FORMING OF VISA LINES DURING THE NIGHT AND ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE ILL-WILL GENERATED BY THE TREMENDOUS VOLUME AND OUR INABILLTY TO DEAL WITH THIS VOLUME EFFECITVELY. THE HEALTHY EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS CANNOT BE OVERSTATED, AND THE RELATIVELY LOW COST OF HIRING FOUR PITS FOR THIS PERIOD WOULD CERTAINLY BE WORTH THE ADVANTAGES WHICH WOULD BE GAINED.

3. THE FOUR PITT POSITIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE OPERATION OF THIS SCHEME AND THE BUREAU'S EARLY AND FAVORABLE CONCURRENCE WILL BE REQUESTED SO ORDERLY PLANNING AND RECRUITING CAN BE UNDERTAKEN.
VAKY

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NNN

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